

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

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R 040946Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7755

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T OSLO 502

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN-ICELANDIC RELATIONS AND KEFLAVIK: FOREIGN
MINISTER FRYDENLUND'S VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND REYKJAVIK

REF: (A) OSLO 438 (NOTAL) (B) OSLO 3375 (NOTAL)

1. DURING FEBRUARY 2 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND, WE DISCUSSED STATUS OF KEFLAVIK NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS FORTHCOMING VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND REYKJAVIK. WE WERE ALONE AND I TOLD HIM CANDIDLY THAT I WAS AMAZED THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF NOT RAISING KAFLAVIK WITH THE ICELANDERS, UNLESS THEY BROUGHT IT UP FIRST, GIVEN ALL THAT IS AT STAKE FOR NORWAY AS WELL AS FOR THE REST OF NATO. HE SPOKE AGAIN OF RESPECTING ICELANDIC SENSITIVITIES, BUT HE ASSURED ME THAT THE SUBJECT WILL COME UP, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BEFORE HE LEAVES REYKJAVIK. HE IS CONFIDENT THE ICELANDERS THEMSELVES WILL RAISE IT, BUT IF THEY DO NOT HE WILL FIND A WAY TO DO SO.

2. FRYDENLUND ALSO INDICATED SOME CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLICATION OF THE MEMO THE NORWEGIANS GAVE THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT LAST SEPTEMBER, BEFORE THE CURRENT NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE (SEE REFTELS). HE DID NOT SAY HOW A POSSIBLE REQUEST FROM ICELAND FOR PERMISSION TO PUBLISH IT WOULD BE DECIDED, BUT GIVEN THE REFERENCES IN THE MEMO TO THE SOVIET THREAT HE WOULD BE MUCH
SECRET

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HAPPIER IF IT WERE NOT PUBLISHED ON THE EVE OF PRIME MINISTER BARTTEL'S MARCH VISIT TO MOSCOW.

3. COMMENT: I THINK WE CAN TAKE FRYDENLUND'S ASSURANCES

AS A FIRM COMMITMENT TO RAISE THE KEFLAVIK ISSUE WHILE
HE IS IN REYKJAVIK. FOR PURPOSES OF HIS WASHINGTON
BRIEFINGS NEXT WEEK, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HE NOT BE
ASKED AGAIN. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, SEEM QUITE APPROPRIATE
TO EXPRESS APPRECIATE FOR HIS ASSURANCE TO ME THAT
HE WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT HE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT
NORWEGIAN VIEWS ON THE RECORD BEFORE HE LEAVES REYKJAVIK. BYRNE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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